Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 01223 161118Z ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 CPR-01 L-03 SSO-00

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P 161045Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9811

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FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY BEN READ FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT, CASC, CGEN, PDIP

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT OF CONSULAR AGENT IN THE MALDIVES

REF: STATE 067136

1. I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP IN MOVING CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHMENT CONSULAR AGENCY ALONG EXPEDITIOUSLY SO I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISCUSS IT WITH PRESIDENT NASIR WHEN I PRESENT CREDENTIALS.

2.REGARDING APPOINTMENT CONSULAR AGENT, I NOTE SINGLE PRIVATE AMERICAN

CITIZEN RESIDENT IN MALDIVES IS FINISHING HER ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND ABOUT TO DEPART.ONLY OTHER AMERICANS UNSUITABLE SINCE THEY WORK FOR UNDP.ALL OTHER PRIVATE FOREIGN RESIDENTS ARE INDIAN AND PAKISTANI MERCHANTS.WE CAREFULLY EXAMINED SINGLE ATTRACTIVE EXCEPTION, PAKISTANI MANAGER OF HABIB BANK, BUT HE IS LEAVING SOON AT CONCLUSION OF ASSIGNMENT.

3. RESULT OF FOREGOING EXAMINATION WAS THAT THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO CONSULAR AGENT BEING HOST COUNTRY NATIONAL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFTER VERY CAREFUL INVESTIGATION OF PROSPECTS, ON 27 JANUARY AS REQUIRED BY 3 FAM 992.3, WE POUCHED TO NEA/EX PERMISSION FOR EMPLOYMENT OF MISS RASHEEDA MOHAMED DIDI WITH REQUEST FOR EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING. SHE IS OUTSTANDING PERSON WHO WAS INTERVIEWED BY ME PERSONALLY IN COLOMBO. SHE IS CONTINUING TO TURN DOWN UNDP OFFERS TO RENT HER RESIDENCE SINCE IT CONTAINS

VERY HARD TO FIND OFFICE SPACE SUITED TO CONSULAR AGENCY MODEST NEEDS.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO PRESENT MISS DIDI'S NAME TO PRESIDENT NASIR FOR "AGREEMENT" AS CONSULAR AGENT, AT SAME TIME THAT I FORMALLY MAKE DEPARTMENT-APPROVED REQUEST TO HIM FOR CONCURRENCE IN ESTABLISHMENT CONSULAR AGENCY.

5. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE. WRIGGINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: CONSULAR AGENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 16 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COLOMB01223
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780117-0102 Format: TEL From: COLOMBO **Handling Restrictions:**

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780362/aaaabzyg.tel

Line Count: 73 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d7274bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION SS

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY Reference: 78 STATE 67136

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 06 may 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date: Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a SAS ID: 3313784

Status: NATIVE Subject: APPOINTMENT OF CONSULAR AGENT IN THE MALDIVES

TAGS: AMGT, CASC, CGEN, PDIP, MV

To: STATE Type: TE

Secure: OPEN

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d7274bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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